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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to determine the effect of limiting class size in developmental English on subsequent student performance in a college-level English course. Class size effects were studied for two groups of students enrolled in College English I at the seven two-year branch campuses of Kent State University (i.e., Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, Trumbull, and Tuscarawas). The first group had completed "Introduction to College English" (a developmental course) in fall 1989, when class size was not limited and classes averaged 17.1 students. The second group completed the same developmental course in fall 1990 when class size was limited to 15 students, and classes averaged 12.3 students. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and Chi Square procedures employed to compare the academic records of students in the two groups. Study results included the following: (1) students who completed developmental English when class size was limited had higher average grades in college-level English than the students who were enrolled in the larger classes; (2) students at Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, and Trumbull campuses, who were enrolled in the smaller developmental course had statistically higher percentages of better grades; (3) there were no significant differences in students' grades at the Tuscarawas campus; and (4) college-level English course withdrawal rates were the same for both groups of students. ANOVA and Chi Square tables with results for each of the seven campuses are included. (PAA)

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THE EFFECT OF CLASS SIZE IN ENGLISH 10000: "INTRODUCTION TO COLLEGE ENGLISH" ON STUDENT GRADES IN ENGLISH 10001: "COLLEGE ENGLISH I" IN THE KENT STATE UNIVERSITY REGIONAL CAMPUSES

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
REGIONAL CAMPUSES
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION SERVICES

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ABSTRACT

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AUTHOR: William E. Knight, Coordinator, Academic Assessment and Evaluation Services, Regional Campuses

SUBJECT: The subsequent effect of limiting class size to fifteen in developmental English on student grades in the first college English course

DATE: August, 1991

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SUMMARY:

This study examines the effect on student grades in ENGLISH 10001, "College English I," of limiting class size to fifteen students in ENGLISH 10000, "Introduction to College English." Class size effects were studied by comparing the grades in ENGLISH 10001 of students who were previously enrolled in ENGLISH 10000 in the Fall semester of 1989, when class size was not limited and averaged 17.1, and of students who were previously enrolled in ENGLISH 10000 in the Fall semester of 1990, when class size was limited to 15 and averaged 12.3.

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and Chi Square procedures were employed to detect significant differences in course grades. Results showed a higher average grade in ENGLISH 10001 for students who took the developmental English course when enrollment was limited. They also showed statistically significant differences in the percentages of grades A, B, C, D, and F; higher percentages of better grades were obtained for students at Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, and Trumbull who had been enrolled in ENGLISH 10000 with a class size limit. The greatest differences in percentages of better grades were seen at Ashtabula and East Liverpool.

There was no significant difference at Tuscarawas or when differences were considered regardless of campus. The percent of students who withdrew from ENGLISH 10001 was identical at 5% between those enrolling in ENGLISH 10000 with and without the class size limit.

These results follow an earlier study, English 10000 Class Size Effect Study, which examined grades in the ENGLISH 10000 course with and without the class size limit in Fall 1989 and Fall 1990 and found significantly improved grades only at Ashtabula. Continued studies will investigate the effect of the ENGLISH 10000 class size limit on grades in ENGLISH 10002, "College English II," and on student retention.

ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE (ANOVA) RESULTS OF ENGLISH 10000 CLASS SIZE LIMIT EFFECTS ON ENGLISH 10001 GRADES

CAMPUS	Enrolled in ENG 10000 Fall 1989 N	ENG 10001 Mean Grade	Enrolled in ENG 10000 Fall 1990 N	ENG 10001 Mean Grade
Ashtabula	40	1.85	24	2.29
East Liverpool	19	1.95	19	2.16
Geauga	6	1.83	10	2.30
Salem	25	2.08	23	2.57
Stark	54	1.83	42	2.05
Trumbull	56	2.18	57	2.04
Tuscarawas	56	2.52	51	2.67
Total	256	2.09	226	2.28

Source	SS	v	MS	F
Semester	0.1267	1	0.1267	79.19*
Residual	0.7671	480	0.0016	

*p < .01

CHI SQUARE RESULTS OF ENGLISH 10000 CLASS SIZE LIMIT

All Campuses	A	B	C	D	F
Fall 1989	6%	29%	43%	13%	9%
Fall 1990	7%	38%	37%	12%	6%
Ashtabula*					
Fall 1989	6%	17%	48%	17%	12%
Fall 1990	8%	42%	21%	29%	0%
East Liverpool*					
Fall 1989	0%	21%	58%	16%	5%
Fall 1990	0%	47%	27%	21%	5%
Geauga*					
Fall 1989	0%	33%	17%	50%	0%
Fall 1990	0%	30%	70%	0%	0%
Salem*					
Fall 1989	4%	36%	36%	12%	12%
Fall 1990	9%	52%	31%	4%	4%
Stark*					
Fall 1989	6%	24%	36%	15%	19%
Fall 1990	5%	26%	50%	7%	12%
Trumbull*					
Fall 1989	4%	27%	56%	9%	4%
Fall 1990	0%	30%	49%	16%	5%
Tuscarawas					
Fall 1989	14%	43%	29%	9%	5%
Fall 1990	20%	45%	23%	6%	6%

*$p < .01$

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